Jap Bosses Camp for Aliens, Cook Tells Dies Committee

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LOS ANGELES, June 17.—Testimony that an internee was running the Japanese relocation center at Heart Mountain, Wyo., was laid before a Dies subcommittee today.

Earl A. Best, veteran of the British evacuation at Dunkirk and former chef at the camp, told the Dies group that a Japanese, Sam Nagata, actually was boss at the internment center.

"Miss Virgil Payne, a social worker, takes her orders from Nagata," Best testified. "And Guy Robertson, project director for the War Relocation Authority, takes his orders from Miss Payne."

Best, additionally, told an amazing story of alleged extravagance, huge liquor supplies, waste, and the bartering of hoarded food at the Heart Mountain camp.

The subcommittee, headed by Representative John M. Costello of California, heard Best's testimony.

Japanese chefs at the camp's 40-odd kitchens hid thousands of dollars' worth of food behind secret panels and in attics, Best said. When he attempted to search one attic a Jap chef threatened him with decapitation with a meat cleaver, he testified.

Best said in that particular attic he found $2,000 worth of hoarded foodstuffs, including 500 pounds of coffee, and 50 cases of cereal in which mice already had made nests.

Ham and other delicacies were hoarded through padded requisitions, Best declared, and then were traded for whiskey to Japanese soldiers of the American Army who visited the camp on furlough.